

HAILEY'S ON IT!
"Night of the Living Pumpkins"
By Marty Donovan
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INT. MYSTERIOUS ROOM - NIGHT

CLOAKED FIGURES holding candles surround a kneeling BORED MURRAY. The LEADER congratulates him on being tapped to join their secret society, The Council of Mischief. Every Halloween, the Council continues the long-standing Halloween tradition of classic pranks. In medieval-style paintings, we see their past efforts: toilet-papering Mr. Williams' trees, egging Bill Board's billboards, and smashing stuff at the dump. When asked if he accepts membership in such a prestigious society, Bored Murray gives an on-brand, unenthusiastic, "Oh, heck yeah." SCOTT (O.S.): "Wait, Bored Murray gets to be in your group?!"

INT. BECKER'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

REVEAL Scott is poking his head up through the attic door of Becker's room. The figures then take off their hoods to reveal it's BECKER and the SAWS. Becker tells Scott to buzz off but Scott's got serious FOMO and wants to join the Council of Mischief, too. Becker reminds him that you have to pull off an epic prank to get in; Bored Murray's in because slipped into Tommy D's hot tub with bouillon cubes in his pockets and turned the whole thing into soup! Becker points out that Scott is the worst pranker in the world.

Scott disagrees and makes his case with some "epic" prank examples: he's mowed people's lawns, added extra air fresheners to cars, and even folded strangers' laundry at the laundromat. Becker: "Those aren't pranks, those are good deeds!" The Council is not impressed. Scott says whatever, he doesn't need their group, he and Hailey are going to have an absolutely EPIC Halloween without them...

INT. HAILEY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Turns out he was wrong, because HAILEY says they're doing list item #611: Win the School's Pumpkin Carving Contest! She holds up the dinkiest little pumpkin. Scott moans, "That's not epic at all!" BETA explains that Hailey didn't listen to his advice (to buy the biggest "fat daddy" of a pumpkin) and instead she "waited out the rush" and ended up with this little loser of a pumpkin. Hailey argues that it's not the size of pumpkin that matters, it's how they carve it.

FLIP TO:

INT. HAILEY'S BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

The three stare at the now-carved, tiny pumpkin. It's still super lame. Hailey: "Okay, maybe the size does matter." That's when THE PROFESSOR portals in and asks to borrow a pair of glasses; the ones in her Teen Hailey Banks costume (labeled as "List Girl" a la a Spirit Halloween costume) were already broken.

Hailey lends her one of her dozens of pairs and the Professor portals out. But Scott giggles, saying he's pulled an all-time best prank on The Professor! Scott: "I borrowed her backpack, and when she comes back to get it she's going to find 20 bucks in it. GOT HER!" He dumps the backpack's futuristic contents (a \$50 coin, a complex device called "The Mulliganator," a self-driving cardigan, etc.) and puts the 20 bucks in.

Hailey's not sure that counts as a prank, but in the pile of future stuff she spots a bottle of "Spray 'n Grow," a high-powered "instant fertilizer" for plants. This is perfect! Hailey can use it on her dinky jack-o-lantern to make it big and impressive, and then she'll win the contest!

EXT. HAILEY'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

Hailey skims the instructions/warnings on the Spray 'n Grow bottle before excitedly giving her tiny pumpkin a misting. Nothing happens. Beta asks if she wants to win or not, and douses the pumpkin. As they argue over how much spray to use, the pumpkin starts to grow, its face warping and creepy vines sprouting until it's a massive jack-o-lantern. Wow! The spray worked even better than they imagined and they all celebrate. Hailey will win for sure.

INT. SCHOOL GYM - NIGHT

MR. HARDMEIER is mid-judging all the pumpkin contest entries including AC's vampire pumpkin with a fake blood (ketchup) pump, when Hailey and Scott enter with their Giant Pumpkin in a wagon. Hardmeier immediately gives Hailey first place and her wristband turns green. AC, unwilling to lose, cranks his ketchup pump to the max to sway Hardmeier, but he just gets ketchup everywhere, including on Hailey's Giant Pumpkin.

That's when the Giant Pumpkin's face starts to twitch, its vines writhing and stretching. The contest attendees watch in horror as it fully comes to life with a demonic laugh. They all cower as Beta scans the Spray 'n Grow bottle;

its fine print warns that mixing Spray 'n Grow with ketchup can result in "organic anthropomorphization." Hailey: "Oh come on, how was I supposed to know that?!" Using its vines like hands, the Giant Pumpkin snatches the bottle from Beta, quickly sprays the other students' jack-o-lanterns, and feeds them ketchup. All the pumpkins grow and awaken, becoming a gang of scary jack-o-lanterns that wreak havoc in the gymnasium as the students scream and scatter.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - NIGHT

The kids huddle beneath tables as pumpkins stalk the hallways. AC just barely closes himself in a locker before a pumpkin eats his shirt off. Meanwhile, Hailey, Scott, and Beta dip into a janitor's closet, only to find the Giant Pumpkin from before already in there.

Beta tries to reason with it, apologizing for his earlier "loser pumpkin" comment. Giant Pumpkin laughs and squashes Beta. He groans and I-wuv-yous as Hailey snags him and they flee from the Giant Pumpkin and its pumpkin gang.

EXT. SCHOOL - NIGHT

The pumpkin horde busts through the doors and smashes through windows as they exit into the night. One pumpkin even jumps from the second floor, smashing Hardmeier's Wissan Cilantro before rolling after his compatriots into town. Hardmeier: "Not my Wissan!!!"

Racked with guilt, Hailey laments ever using the Professor's fertilizer. How can she ever fix this now?! Those monsters are going to smash the town to bits... Just then, Hailey gets an idea and tells Scott and Beta to follow her.

EXT. DUMP - NIGHT

Becker SMASHES a toilet with a sledgehammer and sighs. She admits to Bored Murray and the Saws that her heart's not in it this year. This admission opens the floodgates as they all dive into an existential crisis; is there more to life than the same mischief year after year? Do they lack purpose? Maybe it's time to move on and really start living. They could travel or take a pottery class! Bonesaw says he's always wanted to become an occupational therapist. They decide to call it a night and get a good night's rest before they turn their lives around tomorrow.

But then Hailey and Scott sprint up, yelling about evil pumpkins terrorizing the town! They need their help smashing them or O'Side is going to be No-Mo'Side!

Becker and the Saws all look at each other. Becker: "Just when you think you're out, they pull you back in. Hand me my sledgehammer."

EXT. BOARDWALK - NIGHT

The pumpkins are destroying the pier, chasing people, eating food stands, tipping over cars, etc. Hailey yells out to them and all the pumpkins turn to see her, Scott, Becker, The Saws, and Bored Murray standing like badasses with their smashing tools. Hailey: "It's smashing time."

The crew charges and starts smashing all the evil pumpkins:

--Two pumpkins jump at Buzzsaw but he takes each one out with grand-slam swings of his baseball bat.

--Bonesaw and Paul roll a pretzel cart and a taco cart at one another, smashing a pumpkin between them as they collide.

--A surprisingly nimble and speedy (albeit expressionless) Bored Murray uses nunchucks to destroy multiple pumpkins.

--Scott hesitates to smash a relatively friendly-looking pumpkin, but a chainsaw comes through it from behind, splitting it in half. REVEAL Chainsaw wielding it and giving Scott a thumbs up.

--Becker vaults over a pumpkin, lifting its lid and dropping rockets inside. The pumpkin is confused 'til the rockets explode out of it and blast it to bits.

--Hailey smashes a pumpkin with a carnival mallet, but the Giant Pumpkin rips it out of her hand and throws it. She crawls backwards, terrified, but at the last minute she smiles and points up. Giant Pumpkin looks skyward to see the giant cupcake sign from a bakery's roof falling towards him. It smushes him. Beta, on the roof with wire cutters, mutters, "Hee hee, loser."

Among the pumpkin carnage, the exhausted smashers all congregate and laugh. Becker and the Saws thank Hailey; their smashing spirit has been officially revitalized.

But...how did those pumpkins do that?? Hailey phumphers for an excuse. Scott: "It was a prank! My prank! And a prankster never tells, so you'll just have accept I made all the magical stuff happen." The Council of Mischief is officially impressed and tells Scott that after an epic stunt like that, he's definitely Council of Mischief material.

INT. HAILEY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Hailey and Scott clean the last bits of pumpkin gunk off themselves as a panicked Professor portals in and spots her missing backpack. Professor: "You didn't use anything in it, did you? The Person Eraser? Or the Mulliganator?? Or the Diamond Printer???" Hailey: "Uh, no. We used your fertilizer spray." The Professor immediately relaxes and says, "Weird choice." She goes to leave, finds the 20 dollars in her backpack, and shrugs. She tosses the bill on Hailey's bed and leaves. Scott takes that as a huge win: "Did you see that shrug? She was like 'whaaaaaaat'!" He cracks up at "another epic prank" as Hailey and Beta roll their eyes, and we...

FADE OUT.